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NRO REVIEW COMPLETED

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13 December 1966

MEMORANDUM FOR: Acting Deputy Director for Defense and Technology

SUBJECT: Effect of Relocation of IDEALIST to Davis-Monthan Air Force Base

1. On one or two occasions the Bureau of the Budget has suggested that OSA consider moving the IDEALIST Detachment from Edwards Air Force Base to the Davis-Monthan Air Force Base at Tuscon, Arizona. While no specific recommendation to this effect has been made, we have studied the possibility to determine whether it would improve efficiency or reduce the overall costs of the IDEALIST program. It has been concluded that the collocation of the Agency program with the SAC U-2 operation is totally incompatible with CIA's covert U-2 mission and therefore not operationally feasible, and that it would not result in significant monetary savings. The considerations leading to this conclusion are as follows:

a. Moving the IDEALIST program from the remoteness of its present site at North Base, EAFB, to Davis-Monthan AFB, which is within the city limits of Tuscon, would impair the security of the IDEALIST program.

(1) A large group of Air Force personnel would have to be cleared due to their involvement in the daily operational requirements of the U-2/U-2R.

(2) There would be undue speculation on the part of civilian personnel at the Air Base who will see the U-2R.

(3) U-2R flights from Davis-Monthan would be within sight of the civilian population of Tuscon.

(4) There would be an influx of civilian personnel, who ostensibly work for LAC, into a flight line which is ordinarily manned by AF personnel.

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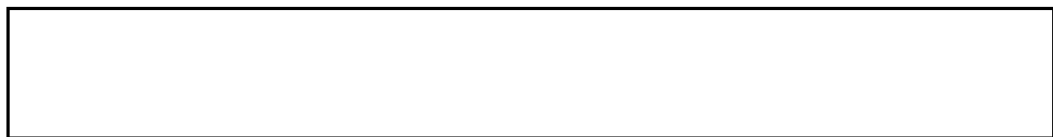
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(5) There are major differences in program activities, such as SAC alerts, badges, civilian guards, etc.

(6) Civilian pilots would be exposed to service friends and service acquaintances. This is a particularly significant problem.



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(8) There would be compromise of deployment security due to large movement of personnel and materiel from the Air Base.

(9) It would be difficult to explain loss of CIA aircraft and pilot if the occasion should arise during overflight.

(10) Collocation with military aircraft of the same type would tend to erode the cover story and the civilian character of the program.

b. Facilities which already exist at Edwards AFB would have to be constructed at Davis-Monthan. It is estimated that this would cost (see Attachment I).

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c. Edwards AFB is basically a flight test facility and is well suited to the IDEALIST operations because of the environment and isolated location. It also has a short runway that is not used for other aircraft. Davis-Monthan, on the other hand, is a SAC/TAC operational base with an entirely different mission and at present the facilities are taxed to capacity.

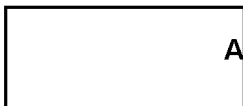


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e. The transportation of personnel and materiel from the LAC-Burbank complex to Edwards is simple. The additional distance to Davis-Monthan would make this transportation very costly.

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f. There would probably be a temporary degradation of maintenance due to the loss of personnel who are unwilling to move from the Burbank-Edwards area in California to Davis-Monthan in Arizona.

g. Assuming that there would be replacements for those who would not move, it would cost an estimated [redacted] to move [redacted] the complete support mechanism to Arizona (see Attachment II). There would also be a considerable impact on the base housing at Davis-Monthan and the local housing at Tucson by bringing these people into a base which is already saturated.

h. There would be a costly delay in the test and delivery of the U-2R pending completion of the test shops, hangars, etc., at Davis-Monthan.

i. A communications complex would have to be established at Davis-Monthan for Agency use.

2. In summary, therefore, we strongly recommend against collocation of the IDEALIST program with the SAC U-2 operations at Davis-Monthan. In addition to the one-time costs associated with a move, we believe that the day-to-day operations at Davis-Monthan would cost more than at Edwards. Further, we feel that the present arrangements at Edwards, where we have had no serious problems or incidents, are far superior for both the existing IDEALIST operation and the contemplated U-2R testing.

[redacted]

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JOHN PARANGOSKY

Acting Director of Special Activities

Attachments:

- I. Construction Program
- II. Transportation Costs

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